No Objection To Declassification in Full 2011/04/28 : LOC-HAK-207-4-26-9

REPORTAGE ON LIFTING OF OIL EMBARGO, RELATED COMMENT

18 Mar OAPEC Conference Delayed

Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 18 Mar 74 M

[Text] The Arab oil ministers meeting scheduled to be held in Vienna this morning has been postponed to this afternoon.

ARNA's correspondent in Vienna says that the postponement decision was made to enable some delegations, particularly the Syrian delegation, to consult with their governments. The correspondent also learned that the Syrian minister has confirmed that there is no indication that the Zionist forces will withdraw from occupied Syrian territories. The Syrian oil minister also confirmed that it is not possible to lift the oil embargo so long as the conditions as defined by the Kuwait conference have not been applied.

Meeting Convenes

Hamburg DPA in German 1538 GMT 18 Mar 74 L

[Excerpts] Vienna--The OAPEC conference of ministers resumed in Vienna this afternoon. The ministers are discussing the lifting of the oil embargo against the United States.

Decision To Lift Oil Embargo

Cairo MENA in Arabic 1750 GMT 18 Mar 74 M

[Text] Vienna, 18 March--Seven Arab countries today issued a decision to lift the embargo on oil shipments to the United States. These countries also issued a decision to treat Italy and the FRG as friendly states. A third decision has been adopted to increase production to the level that will enable these two decisions to be implemented.

The following is the text of the decision adopted by the seven Arab countries:

1. Italy and the FRG shall be treated as friendly countries. Their oil requirements shall be provided within the limits of Arab oil production, but making sure that exported Arab oil does not replace non-Arab oil which was to be exported to these countries lest such oil be redirected to a country subject to the boycott or to the reduced production.

2. The embargo on oil shipments to the United States shall be lifted with the provision that this decision, like the other decisions, shall be reviewed at a meeting the Arab oil ministers will hold in Cairo on 1 June 1974.

3. The production of each Arab country shall be increased to the level that will enable it to implement this decision.

MENA has learned that Libya does not object to the lifting of the embargo, but expressed the reservation that the time was not appropriate and therefore did not sign the decision.

MENA has also learned that contacts between the Syrian oil minister and his government are continuing to determine his country's stand on this decision.

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Further Details on Decision

Vienna Domestic Service in German 1900 GMT 18 Mar 74 A

[Text] The ministers in charge of oil production of nine Arab oil producing countries decided by a majority vote this evening after a 2-hour session in Vienna to immediately lift the embargo on oil deliveries to the United States.

As Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Yamani told journalists after the end of the negotiations in the Hotel Imperial, Egypt, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and the United Emirates' Abu Dhabi, Bahrain, and Qatar decided to lift the embargo without conditions. Algeria will at first resume deliveries only until 1 June.

Syria and Libya, as Yamani stressed, have not joined the step of their partner countries. Both states want to make a lifting of the delivery embargo dependent upon the further withdrawal of Israeli troops from occupied Arab territories. The ministers decided to convene again on 1 June in Cairo and to review their decision in the light of further developments.

U.S. Policy Shift Noted

Vienna Domestic Service in German 2100 GMT 18 Mar 74 A

[Excerpt] In a communique published after the Vienna conference the oil ministers noted the clear change in the attitude of the European community on the Middle East question. They also declared that the American Middle East policy, too, had assumed a new dimension regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict.

According to Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Yamani the embargo will be maintained against the Netherlands and Denmark because these countries, as he said, have not changed their attitude toward the Arab states. In the concluding statement Italy and the FRG are termed friendly nations whose oil requirements are to be fully met.

Tripoli Calls Decision 'Treason'

Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 18 Mar 74 M

[Text] The Arab oil ministers today decided to lift the oil embargo against the United States.

It is known that the Libyan Arab Republic has rejected this decision and adheres to the decision previously adopted by the Arab oil ministers concerning the imposition of an embargo on oil shipments to the United States because it has not so far proved its good intentions, thus making it possible to lift the oil embargo against it.

It is treason that this decision has been made at a time when the situation on the Syrian front is deteriorating and when the situation is being frozen after only one step. [sentence as heard; presumably refers to disengagement on Egyptian front]

Libya will not reconsider its decision unless the United States changes its aggressive policy against the Arabs. It considers the decision of the Arab oil ministers to lift the oil embargo to be a violation of what has been agreed upon, and feels that the aim for which the embargo was imposed has not yet been achieved.

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